THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under the Scheme, 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'.

During the year 2007-08, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, sanctioned Rs. 2076.04 lakh to the Government of Uttarakhand for development and promotion of tourism. The details are as under:

(*Rs. in lakh*)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Pilgrim Circuit	466.59
2.	Development of Dhanaulti-Chamba-Narendranagar	554.93
3.	Development of Corbett National Park as a Tourist Circuit	602.00
4.	Development of Munsyari as a Tourist Destination	452.52
	TOTAL:	2076.04

Development of mega tourist circuit in Orissa

3833. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre proposes to develop a mega tourist circuit/destination of national importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the tourist projects that are proposed to be developed in Orissa under this project; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to develop additional hotel accommodation and create institutional infrastructure for training of manpower to meet the demand of increased tourist inflow in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development of tourist circuits and destinations is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism however, provides financial assistance to State/Union Territories for tourism projects including mega projects based on proposals received from them in accordance with scheme guidelines subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

The Ministry has sanctioned 12 projects for Rs. 2376.30 lakhs for development and promotion of tourism in Orissa during 2007-08.

(c) The Ministry is constantly in touch with the various Land Owning Agencies like Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Urban Development, DDA, etc. to identify additional hotel sites and monitor the construction of hotels. These agencies and the State Governments of the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have also been advised

to follow investor friendly land policies and a single window approach for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting sites on revenue sharing basis and granting extra FSI/ FAR for hotels.

For training of manpower to meet the demand of increased tourist inflow, the Ministry has sanctioned 4 new Food Craft Institutes and 9 State Institutes of Hotel Management in the country during the year 2007-08. Training is also provided to the stakeholders under the scheme of Capacity Building for Service Providers.

Crime against foreign tourists

†3834. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of molestation and beating of foreign tourists have taken place at famous tourist spots in some States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in some cases, foreign tourists have died too;

(c) if so, the details of tourists died at various tourist spots in the country during last one year, State-wise; and

(d) the details of action being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI ABMIKA SONI): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and as such, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The data on incidents of crimes against tourists, including foreign tourists is not compiled by Ministry of Tourism. Following recent media reports regarding harassment with tourists in India, the Ministry of Tourism discussed the issue of safety and security of tourists with Secretaries of Tourism of States/Union Territories and representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. It was emphasised that ensuring the safety and security of tourists is of paramount importance and State Government/Union Territories must ensure the same.

Promotion of cultural tourism

3835. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to promote cultural tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to attract the Buddhist tourists specially from the South-East and East-Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The diverse tourism products of India including Culture Tourism and Buddhist sites are being promoted by the Ministry of Tourism through its media campaigns, website, production and distribution of publicity material and dissemination of information through India Tourism Offices in India and abroad. In 2004-05 and 2005-06, a major media campaign titled 'Come to India — Walk with the Buddha' was launched in the South East and East Asian countries to promote India's Buddhist Heritage.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.